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An Unlimited Arbitration Treaty with Great Britain.

The failure of the second Hague Conference to give us a general treaty of obligatory arbitration for all nations has led to an increased interest in, and a wide discussion of, the subject since that time. The consideration of the subject at The Hague in 1907 and the vote upon it revealed the fact that almost the entire world is ready for this important step in international relations.

The treaty which was discussed at the second Hague Conference was, it is true, not absolutely unlimited, but it went a long way in that direction. It was defeated by a group of five powers, led by Germany, who was not ready to agree in advance to arbitrate with all powers, the more backward as well as the more advanced.

While unable to move further in this direction for the present, and while waiting for the third Conference at The Hague, our government has conceived the possibility of a most effective step in furtherance of unlimited arbitration being taken without waiting further. President Taft, whose declaration last spring

in favor of arbitrating questions of honor and vital interests as well as all others has given the whole movement new vitality and power, is therefore moving for an unlimited treaty with Great Britain. Our special treaty with Great Britain concluded by ex-Secretary of State Root in 1908 provided only for the submission to the Hague Court of questions of a judicial order and those arising in the interpretation of treaties. It reserved questions of honor and vital interests, and was to run for only five years.

The present moment is a most auspicious one for reviving the effort for an unlimited Anglo-American treaty. The North Atlantic fisheries dispute has just been settled, to the immense satisfaction of both countries. Ambassador Bryce and our Secretary of State have already settled, or arranged for the settlement of, all the outstanding differences between the United States and Canada. Friendliness between our country and Great Britain was never stronger than at the present time. Why should they not, therefore, incorporate in a convention what is already their settled practice, and thus consecrate themselves forever to mutual goodwill and peace and give to the world a noble example to follow?

The interest in the subject in Great Britain is quite as strong as it is here, and there is every reason to believe that negotiations, which are reported already to have begun, will eventuate soon in a treaty of the most advanced type. President Taft has been consulting members of the Senate, and the proposed treaty will, doubtless, be drawn in a way to receive the prompt approval of that body.

It has been suggested that the Olney-Pauncefote Treaty of 1897, which failed of ratification in the Senate by only four votes after having been amended almost beyond recognition, be revived and ratified now. This does not seem likely to be done. It is certainly not advisable that it should be done. Since 1897 the Hague Court has been established, and whatever treaty is concluded now ought certainly to stipulate reference of controversies to this Court. Under existing conditions, there is no need to create two kinds of tribunals for different kinds of controversies, as was done in the treaty of 1897, and many of the specific features of that treaty, which was admirably drawn at that time, would now be wholly unnecessary. The treaty which is required at this time, in view of the existence of the Hague Court, need not be over one-fourth as long as the Olney-Pauncefote Convention, and it certainly should be